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(Communicated by the Smithsonian Institution.)

**Notes on the BIRDS of Jamaica.**

BY W. T. MARCH.

With remarks,

BY S. F. BAIRD.

(Continued from page 154.)

## II.

*CUCULIDÆ.*

85. *SAUROATHERA VETULA*.—We have met with several nests of the Old Man Bird in this district in the season of 1862, but all with young birds. According to a note I made of a nest taken in 1848, "The old man bird builds a loose nest of sticks in low bushes, though sometimes more elevated, and lays 3—4 eggs, light green, clouded partially with a thinly dispersed chalky substance, measuring  $1\frac{7}{16}$  by a little more than 1 inch," and I find the accuracy of this note confirmed by eggs collected this season, 1863.

86. *PIAYA PLUVIALIS*.—The nest of the Rainbird is sometimes found in the lowlands, but more frequently in the hills, it is a rough deep cup made of dried sticks loosely put together, and lined with leaves, &c., and generally contains 3—4 white eggs, oval or oblong oval rounded at both ends, variable in size, measuring  $1\frac{3}{8}$  to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  by  $1\frac{1}{4}$ .

Mr. Gosse's informant must have been mistaken in the eggs he described as belonging to *Saurothera*.

*PSITTACIDÆ.*

I have had no opportunity of seeing a perfect specimen of any of the Macaws said to have been found on the Island. On one of my professional visits to Montego Bay, in 1834, I saw in the possession of a settler from the Mountains of St. James, near Accompong, the head, wings, and tail of a Macaw, which he said he had shot near Maroon Town. I did not at the time take sufficient interest in this branch of Natural History to note the particulars, but I have a perfect recollection that the head and neck were a bright green with red in the forehead and chin, the tail blue and red, and the wing blue and green. About two years after, Mr. Richard Elmas Breary, then residing in the Mountains of St. James, assured me that he had on one occasion, whilst traversing the Mountain road from St. James to St. Elizabeth, seen three blue and yellow Macaws flying high overhead from one ridge to another. Whether the Macaws be permanent residents, or only occasional visitors, I have not heard of any being seen since 1849. Sir Hans Sloane, in his History of Jamaica, published in 1725, mentioned a blue and yellow parrot. The next notice of the Macaw as found in the Island is by Patrick Brown. In his History of Jamaica, page 472, he states that he has seen one or two in the woods of St. Ann's, and he calls them the blue Macaw of Edwards, evidently the same species as that mentioned by Sloane; they both refer to a 2d species as introduced. The next is recorded by Robinson, (1765,) and was said to have been shot by Mr. Odell, ten miles east of Lucea, in Hanover; this is supposed by Mr. Gosse to be either *A. tricolor*, or an undescribed species. Mr. Hill speaks of others found in the Mountain district, between St. Ann's and Trelawny, which answer the description of *A. militaris*; and the Rev. Mr. Coward's birds seen in flight in 1842, in St. Elizabeth, were blue and yellow. All the species of the smaller Psittacidæ of the Island breed in decayed hollows in the trunks of old trees, generally high up, laying three or four eggs on a slight bedding of trash feathers, and debris of rotten wood; several pairs of the yellow bill have been known to build in one cavity when the space was sufficiently commo-

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dious ; they sometimes make their nests in those tangled masses of trailing plants found enveloping the lofty trees in the dense highland forests. I, once in the parish of St. John, saw a nest of the black bill taken from such a mass of *Bignonia echinata*, which had formed a natural bridge over a chasm between two precipitous rocks. The perroquets sometimes select the abandoned nests of the Duck and *Termites*. This appears, however, to be an exception to the general habit, and only when the nest embraces the trunk or a large branch of the tree. I have unfortunately mislaid my notes of the eggs of the Parrots and Woodpeckers, and have had no opportunity of procuring any for several years. During the breeding season, from March until August, the Parrots mostly retire to the deep woods on the highest mountain ridges, occasionally, however, returning to the lower ranges of hills and valleys, when, tempted by the berries or fruit of some forest tree, then in bearing, or by young maize or ripe bananas on the grounds, or corn fields of the mountain settler ; but in these raids they never remain very long at one time, sometimes descending in the morning and returning to the higher hills in the evening, at other times remaining for a few days only.

The small species are

82. *CHRYSOTIS COLLARIA*, L. (*Psittacus leucocephalus*, Gosse.)—The yellow-billed parrot is more generally distributed in lower ranges than the others ; the iris is usually hazel, but in some is greyish yellow. I have often met with mature individuals of this species in summer livery, spotted all over, the upper plumage with blue and yellow spangles. We have a caged bird which puts on this change every summer.

81. *CHRYSOTIS AGILIS*. (*Psittacus agilis*, Gosse.)—I have never seen more than a few stragglers of this species in the lower hills. It appears to be almost restricted to the higher ranges.

197. *CONURUS NANUS*. (*C. flaviventer*, Gosse.)—From specimens I have at different times collected, these appear to be distinct species.

#### PICIDÆ.

83. *PICUS VARIUS*.—I have never met this species of Woodpecker, unless one I saw in possession of Mr. Hill, a few years back, belonged to it. Mr. Hill obtained in from Manchester. It was grayish white marked with reddish brown spots.

82. *CENTURUS RADIOLATUS*, Wagler.—This is a very common species, found at all times in every part of the Island, from the sea coast to the highest mountain ridges.

#### TROCHILIDÆ.

23. *LAMPORNIS MANGO*, L.—The "Doctor bird" is very common in the lowlands, as well as in the mountains. Their breeding season seems to extend from February to July ; the nest is a neat cup, generally with a flat bottom worked on the branch, but it is sometimes in a fork with a conical bottom, varying in size, the largest about 2 inches across, and a little more than 1 inch in depth on the outside, and  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch within. In the lowlands it is constructed of down of *Eriodendron* and some species of *Asclepias* ; in the mountains, of these and of *Ochroma lagopus* and *Tillandsia*. It is always stuccoed on the outside with a whitish lichen. The eggs are oblong, rounded at both ends, pure white, and measure 11-16ths by 7-16ths. The nest is easily detected, as the bird always hovers round the intruder on his approaching it, as if inclined to attack him.

24. *AITHURUS POLYTMUS*. (*Trochilus polytmus*, Gosse.)—This species is not uncommon in the lowlands from April till September, but is met with on the hills at all times. It is found abundant in the vicinity of the groves of

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*Jambosa vulgaris*, (Rose Apple). The wall of the nest is rather thicker than that of the preceding, and is generally made altogether of down, covered, some thickly, others sparsely, on the outside with spider's webs, lichen or moss; the eggs are pellucid white, and like the thin-shelled eggs of small birds, have a tawny stripe before they are blown; they are oblong, rounded at both ends, and measure 9-16ths by 6-16ths. The long feathers of the tail vary from 8 to 11 inches.

191. *AITHURUS FULIGINOSUS*, Hill.\*—I have met with this second species of long-tailed Humming bird only in St. Ann's. The male is smoky-black, with the long tail feathers, the female brown, and without the tail feathers. I have mislaid my note of the dimensions, but the male is smaller than the *A. polytmus*.

25. *MELLISUGA HUMILIS*.†—The length of this bird varies from  $2\frac{1}{4}$  to  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches. It appears to breed at all seasons, as I have found nests in every month of the year. The nest is made sometimes wholly of down, at other times thinly covered on the outside with lichen, moss, or spider's webs; it is generally about an inch high and the same in diameter; the cup barely  $\frac{1}{2}$  an inch within, some being much smaller; the eggs are oblong, rounded at both ends, pellucid white, tawny before they are blown, and measure 15-32ds by 11-32ds.

79. *MELLISUGA MINIMA*.—This diminutive species of Honey Sucker, though not uncommon in the mountains, is rarely met with in the lowlands. About the Penns in the neighborhood of the Moneague they are abundant, building generally in the low shrubs about Walton and other pastures in the Moneague district. The nest is built of down and spider's webs, and the largest I have met with was only  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch in height, and less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  an inch in depth within the cup. The eggs are pellucid white, oblong, rounded at both ends, and are only 5-16ths by 3-16ths. The dimensions of this diminutive bird are, length  $1\frac{5}{16}$ , expanse  $2\frac{5}{16}$ , flexure  $1\frac{5}{16}$ .

78. There is another species of small humming bird, rather larger than *M. humilis*, with the plumage of a bright metallic or bronzed green. The nest and eggs are a little larger than those of *M. humilis*.

192. *TROCHILUS MARIA*, Hill.‡—I have never met with this species, which is very rare, only three specimens having been recorded, according to my information.

I have been told of another distinct humming bird found on the Dry Harbor Mountains, but have never seen it.

#### CAPRIMULGIDÆ.

10. *CHORDEILES POPETUE*.§—The large night or Mosquito Hawk retains here all the habits, attributed to it on the Continent. This species I have only met with from April to October, but the *Chordeiles minor* is a permanent resident, as I have obtained specimens in nearly every month during the year. They are rather a twilight than a night bird, lying during the day on the ground or ledges of rocks, or on lateral branches of trees; taking wing only in heavy cloudy weather, or immediately after rain, in the dusk of the evening, at early dawn, or on bright moonlight nights. The eggs are deposited on any slight elevation, in the open pasture or savanna, free from any shade; they are often found on a spot where bush has been burnt off, and in the moun-

\* I do not know where this species is described; it may be the *T. stellatus* of Gosse, referred to by Mr. Gould, (B.)

† Mr. Gould considers this as identical with *M. minima*, (B.)

‡ This species is considered by Mr. Gould to be identical with *Aithurus polytmus*.

§ This species is not distinguished from the next by Gosse, (B.)

tains on the ledges of rocks. The male does not appear to take any part in the work of incubation, as I have never seen more than one bird near a nesting place, and I am sure I have seen the nuptial contact performed on the wing. Two eggs are generally laid, yet seldom more than one is found at any spot. If the nest be disturbed, the bird will remove the egg in its mouth to another spot at a distance; this I have seen done several times on the Salina, at Great Salt Pond. The eggs are oblong oval, resembling dark colored pebbles, varying in size. I have noted several varying from  $1\frac{1}{4}$  by  $\frac{7}{8}$ , to  $1\frac{7}{16}$  by one inch; they are grey stone color, dashed all over with Vandyke brown and grey slaty marbling, but they differ a great deal in the shades of color.

214. *CHORDEILES MINOR*. (*C. virginianus*, Gosse.)—Wherever the *C. popetue* is found, there the small *Piramidig* will be seen in company. Their habits and nidification are alike, the only differences I have observed being in the size of the bird, the length of the wing, and the eggs; these latter vary in form and coloring as much as those of the large night hawk; they measure  $1\frac{3}{16}$  by a trifle over  $\frac{7}{8}$  of an inch, some rather more or less; they are sometimes grayish or bluish white, clouded all over or on the smaller half only with bistre-brown and slaty marbling. The egg mentioned by Mr. Gosse, (p. 40), probably belonged to this species. The dimensions of the bird are, length  $8\text{--}8\frac{1}{2}$  inches; expanse  $19\text{--}19\frac{1}{2}$  inches; flexure  $6\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

190. *SIPHONORNIS AMERICANUS*, Selater. (Proc. Zool. Soc., 1861, 77.)—The first I saw of this bird was a specimen from near Linstead, St. Thomas in the vale. It was one of a pair that were lying lengthwise on a lateral branch of a dead tree, crouched closely to the branch. One was shot, and the other flew into a thick foliaged Mango tree close by, where it concealed itself so effectually that it could not be detected though a strict search was made for it. I am informed they are often met with in the Saint Catharine Hills.

11. *NYCTIBIUS JAMAICENSIS*.—The common Potoo is widely distributed throughout the Island, in the plains as well as in the highlands. It is said to lay on the ground two eggs, larger, but very like those of the *Chordeiles*. I have never met with either nest or eggs.

12. *NYCTIBIUS PALLIDUS*.—The white-headed Potoo is a mountain bird, and more rare than the preceding.

189. *NYCTIBIUS* —.—The tawny brown Potoo is of frequent occurrence in the cool glades and gullies of the lower hills; it is rather smaller than the common Potoo ———, possibly immature individuals of that species. The plumage is grayish white marked with reddish brown. I have never seen it far from the foot of the hills. It is sometimes found on the banks of the Rio Cobre, above Spanish Town.

The two American *Antrostomi* are said to be found in the Island, but I have never seen or heard a specimen of either.

#### CYPSELIDÆ.

13. *CHÆTURA COLLARIS*. (*Acanthylis collaris*, Gosse.)—This species is abundant in some parts of the island, but they are seldom seen, except in overcast, cloudy weather, or immediately before or after rain, towards evening; when they leave their cavernous retreats, in the rocky ranges of hills in which they are domiciled, to feed on the insects brought out by the damp atmosphere. The localities in which I have often seen these martins are in the neighborhood of the Ferry and Healthshire in St. Catharine, and on the line between St. Ann's and St. Mary's and St. Thomas' in the Vale, and there they are seen, on a fine evening after the rain, with some other species of *Hirundines*, skimming over the adjacent plains and fields, attracted by the myriads of insects; they are either wholly or in part resident during the entire year, and

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breed in the fissures of the rocks, in places in which, though I have often seen them enter, I was unable to follow from their narrowness. The eggs are pure white.

14. *TACHORNIS PHENICOBIA*.—We have here, with the Palm Swift, an instance of a total change from natural habits induced by adventitious circumstances. Previous to 1854, the habitat of the Palm Swift was altogether confined to the palm-trees, in this district (St. Catharine), and to the cocoanut palms near the coast at Wreck Bay, Healthshire, Port Henderson and Dawkins Pen, at Passage Fort. In that year a colony of them established themselves on two cocoanut palms in Spanish Town, one near the centre of the town, the other at the northeast corner, and there they remained until, in 1857, the palm at the northeast was taken down and the other divested of the lower fronds, and the Swifts turned adrift. They were then for the first time observed flitting about the lower piazzas of the House of Assembly, the upper part of this building having been previously occupied by the *H. fulva*. In a short time these prior occupants were driven out, and a considerable colony of Palm Swifts now occupy the lower colonnade in front of the ground-story used as public offices, where they build on the tops of the end walls, or at the angles formed by the beams and joists. None resort to the upper piazza; but they pertinaciously drive away the *H. fulva* on every attempt they make to effect a lodgment. Small colonies of the Palm Swifts last year (1862) again returned to the palm in the centre of the town, but the large colony still retained its position in the buildings. The nests are here built in clusters, without the elaboration found on those in the palm spathes. Each nest contains two or three long-oval, pellucid white eggs 10-16ths to 12-16ths by 7-16ths. Before the eggs are blown, the yolk gives them a pale amber tint. Two small colonies of the *H. fulva* have this year (1863) effected a lodgment in the upper piazza of the buildings, but they have an unquiet time of it,—the Palm Swifts keeping up a continuous warfare with them.

15. *CYPSELUS NIGER*.—This, like the preceding species, is rarely seen, except in early dawn, or in dull, cloudy weather, or after rain in the afternoon. I have sometimes procured specimens from Healthshire and the St. Catharine Hills. The only place of their actual resort I know, is a cave on the lower St. Catharine's Hills, near the Ferry, where they dwell in the narrow, deep galleries and fissures of the limestone rocks.

#### TYRANNIDÆ.

48. *TYRANNUS GRISEUS*. (*T. Dominicensis*, Gosse.)—The number of Petcharies departing from, or remaining in, the island seems to depend in a great measure on the supply of insect-food consequent on a dry or wet summer. There is some confusion in Mr. Gosse's first quotation from Mr. Hill's notes, —the emigration of the Petchary occurring in October, and the immigration in early spring. The word migratory in the first paragraph of the quotation evidently refers to those birds forming the band of migrants preparing to depart from, and not to their actual departure from or return to, the island. The facts as I have observed them are, that during the last few days in August or the first in September, the Petcharies quit their usual haunts and resort to the pastures, savannahs and adjacent hills and valleys along the coast, both on the north and south sides of the island. During the day they keep to the woodlands, but an hour or two before sunset they congregate on the tall trees around the ponds about the pastures and savannahs, and in the vicinity of river-courses and mangrove swamps, wherever their insect-food is most abundant, to take their evening meal before roosting for the night; and there, perched several in rows on the most elevated, dry branches, they dart about uttering their peculiar cry and capturing insects, always returning to their perch to devour their prey. In a few days they become exceedingly fat, 1863.]

and are then shot in great numbers for the table. Early in October, generally within the first three or four days, they depart, taking a southwesterly direction, leaving, however, many of their numbers, no doubt composed of the permanent residents or the late nestlings; and many more, meeting with a plentiful supply of their favorite food in some localities, are tempted to remain. Soon after the departure of the migratory flocks, those remaining resume their accustomed haunts, both in the highlands and lowlands, where, in solitary pairs, they occupy, as their particular domain, some lofty tree, in the possession of which they remain till the following August, permitting no intruder to interfere with their occupation. The cocoanut palm is often selected by them from its being usually the most lofty. The migrants, on their return in the spring, usually the end of March, or early in April, (the period varying in different localities,) gradually disperse, and, like the resident birds, occupy their selected tree in solitary pairs. They immediately commence the work of nidification. In St. Catharine's, the first nest I have found was on the 14th of April, and the latest about the same date in July. They seldom build in their perch tree, selecting generally some lower tree near to it: some make their nests high, others low, usually at the extremity of a lateral branch of the cashaws, (*Prosopis juliflora* and *Acacia tortuosa*;) the nest is a rather loose structure of twigs and stems of trailing plants, with the cup of fibre, grass, or horse-hair, frequently of all intermixed. They lay three, rarely four, long oval eggs, measuring from  $1\frac{1}{8}$  by  $\frac{3}{4}$  or 13-16ths of an inch, clayish white, or light cream-color, dashed principally round the large end, some thickly, others more sparingly, with blotches and spots of burnt sienna, and slaty or pale bistre cloudings beneath.

49. *TYRANNUS CAUDIFASCIATUS*.—The Loggerhead is found, though not so abundant as the Petchary, in all parts of the island; when the latter congregates in September, previous to their leaving the island, they are joined by this species; these, however, are permanent residents, and do not emigrate. The Loggerhead is never willingly shot by the sportsman, as it seldom puts on even a slight degree of fat, though it is sometimes mistaken for its congener and thus falls a victim by its unfortunate association. Their habits are in most respects those of the Petchary; the nest is of the same size, formed of similar materials, and built in similar situations; it usually lays three, rarely four, oval eggs, light drab or dark cream-color, dashed as those of the Petchary, with burnt ochre and slaty markings, and are more uniformly 1 by  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch.

I have specimens without the occipital crest.

50. *MYIARCHUS VALIDUS*, Cab. (*Tyrannus crinitus*, Gosse.)—The Red Petchary of the South and the Red Loggerhead of the mountains and Western districts agrees with the common Loggerhead in its general habits, except that of association; it is always found solitary, or in pairs; in its nidification it is totally different; the nest, like that of the other *Myiarchi* and smaller fly-catchers, is a slight matting of twigs and leaves, lined with cow's or goat's hair, placed in a fork or indentation or decayed hollow near the top of a tree, wherever a convenient lodgment for the materials is found, and sometimes on the decaying summit of the tree; never in a deep hollow. It lays three or four, sometimes five, longish oval eggs,  $1\frac{3}{8}$  by  $\frac{5}{8}$  of an inch, clayish white, splashed with spots and scratches, and about the large end with blotches of Vandyke-brown, and pale sepia, and slaty spots.

47. *MYIARCHUS STOLIDUS*.—Of the three species of fly-catchers known here as Tom Fools\*—for I believe the three to be distinct—the black-cap Tom Fool

\* Mr. March has transmitted specimens of all his three supposed species of smaller Jamaican *Myiarchi*; but I am not at present prepared to pass judgment upon their claims to distinctive rank.—S. F. B.

appears to answer the description of Gosse's Foolish Petchary: his dimensions are, "length  $7\frac{1}{2}$  inches, expanse  $10\frac{1}{2}$ , flexure  $3\frac{1}{4}$ , tail 3, leg nearly 1, bill (not given by Gosse)  $\frac{3}{4}$  by 5-16ths at the base." His description, "Iris hazel, bill black, feet blackish grey, upper parts bistre brown, darker on the head, paler on the back, basal part of the outer edge of the primaries narrowly chestnut, greater and mid coverts, secondaries and tertiaries edged and tipped whitish. Tail even, feathers broadly edged inwardly with chestnut. Cheeks grey, mottled; chin, throat and forebreast greyish white; breast, belly, vent, under tail coverts, and interior of wing pale yellow. Head feathers erectile. The female has the primaries and tail feathers edged with whitish instead of chestnut," (this is not constant.) This and the next species, if they be really distinct, build in hollow stumps, bamboos, and decayed hollows of low trees, a matting of leaves and down intermixed with soft hair; and sometimes pieces of snake's and lizard's skins are found in the nest of this as well as of the other smaller species of fly-catchers; they all seem to have a predilection for the hollow, decayed stumps of the upright *Cerei*. The nest of this is often found in a penguin plant; the eggs are usually three, oval or longish oval, cream or yellowish drab, splashed with umber and slaty spots. They measure 15-16ths by 11-16ths of an inch.

215. *MYIARCHUS* ———.—The common Tom Fool is like the preceding in general habits, but differs otherwise in many respects. The bill is  $\frac{3}{4}$  by nearly  $\frac{1}{2}$  an inch wide at the base; the length the same. The wings a little longer. The entire upper plumage bistre brown; the markings of the wing coverts imperfectly defined and rusty white; the feathers of the head close and compact, and not darker than the rest of the upper plumage. The chin, throat, head and sides dappled grey, lighter on the breast, rest of the under plumage and under wing coverts yellowish. This species often builds in the thatch or shingles under the eaves of houses and house gutters. I have one nest found in the shell of an old gourd, which had fallen into a forked branch of the tree, and remained there until the pulp decayed. The coloring of the eggs is lighter than that of the preceding.

*MYIARCHUS* ———.—The greater Tom Fool approaches the Red Petchary (*M. validus*) in general habits and nidification, but the plumage is that of the black cap. The bill is much stouter than either of the preceding; the four covering feathers of the tail edged with white at the tips; the length over eight inches. It will sit perched for hours on a dry branch of some tall tree, from which it now and then makes a short flight after some passing insect, uttering a harsh, shrill note or cry, (somewhat like pip-pir-e-pir-ee,) captures its prey and immediately returns to its perch. It builds, like the *M. validus*, a slight matting in the hollow at the top of a decaying tree or tall stump. The eggs are four, longish oval, about 1 by  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch, pale green, splashed with burnt sienna and slaty spots, partially confluent at the large end.

212. *MYIARCHUS* ———.—\*.—This is the second specimen (both females) I have met with of this "curiously-feathered bird." This one was obtained, with the eggs, at Two-mile Wood Savannah, near Spanish Town. It appears to be an individual of the last species in adventitious plumage. The nest, a slight matting, was taken from the hollow top of a decaying tree. The eggs four, oval, pale green, splashed with burnt umber and slaty spots, partially confluent on the large end, measured 1 by 11-16ths of an inch. The three species or varieties known as our Tom Fools are subject to albinism.

194. *ELÆNIA COTTA*.—This species of fly-catcher was at one time supposed to be confined to the southwest parishes, but I have, within the last five or six years, found it abundant about the south mid-land districts during the

\* Probably a partial albino of *M. stolidus* (B.)



winter months. It does not, however, seem to breed there. During the breeding season, from April till September, it appears to retire to the hills. I have several nests and eggs sent to me as identified with the species, but I cannot rely on the authority. Some were evidently eggs of *Blacicus* and *Contopus*. The nests were the same. I last year obtained from St. John's a nest and three eggs, which one of my sons, on whose information I can generally rely, assured me belonged to this species. The nest is constructed of similar materials to that of the Tom Kelly, but rather smaller and not pendant; the eggs dull white, splashed all over with burnt umber dots, confluent about the large end, and measure 6-8ths by  $\frac{3}{8}$  of an inch.

I have not yet met with *Elaenia fallax*. May it not be the immature state of the preceding? In the yearling birds of both the Petchary and Loggerhead the concealed crest is, for the first six months, entirely absent, then rudimentary white and gradually assumes the yellow or red color pertinent to the species.

46. *BLACICUS TRISTIS*. (*Myiobius tristis*, Gosse.)—Both the flat bills are generally found sitting in solitary sadness on low branches of trees and shrubs in the mountain waysides; but this species rarely in the lowlands. The nest is, like that of the *Myiarchi*, a matting of grass, bark and hair placed in hollow stumps or bamboos. The eggs are oval, usually three, measuring 13-16ths by 11-16ths of an inch; creamy or clayish white, splashed all over with burnt umber and pale bistre spots and scratches.

45. *CONTOPUS PALLIDUS*. (*Myiobius pallidus*, Gosse.)—This, like the preceding species, is found most abundant in the hills. It is, however, of more frequent occurrence in the lowlands. The eggs and nidification are the same. The coloring of the eggs lighter and the spots rather larger.

#### COTINGIDÆ.

51. *HADROSTOMUS NIGER*, (*Tityra leuconotus*, Gosse.)—The large mass sent in the first collection of nests is constructed by the Black Shrike; the nest is built generally in the centre, but sometimes at the bottom or on one side; the nest itself is small; other small birds often occupy portions of the structure. The mass, when taken, measured three feet long, by two feet across, and about twelve inches thick, and was suspended from a lateral branch of a lofty Santa Maria tree. There were three small nests on it; the first at one side of the middle, apparently the nest of the preceding year; the two others were near the bottom; the concealed nests had three rotten eggs of the Shrike, the other had two fresh eggs like those of *Glossiptila*. The eggs of the Shrike are usually three, oval, dull white, thickly splashed all over with pale bistre or slaty spots, principally about the large end, and measure one and one eighth to one and three-eighths by thirteen-sixteenths. The structure is sometimes an irregular roundish mass with a profusion of materials hanging loosely about it—like that sent in the second cluster of nests. The Grass Finches, Cotton Tree Sparrow, Soursop bird, and other small birds often build their nests in the mass formed by the Shrike.

#### TURDIDÆ.

30. *MIMUS ORPHEUS*, Linn. (*M. polyglottus*, Gosse.)—The tropic Nightingale or Mocking bird is very social in its habits, and is found in every part of the Island. The nest is usually built in low trees or shrubs, often close to a dwelling or frequented path; it is a loose structure of twigs, generally thorny, with a shallow cup about two inches deep and four inches across, made of grass fibre, hair, wool, cotton, shreds of cloth, and many other kinds of material, the lining being generally hair or fibre. The eggs are oval or long oval, some more pointed than others, olive green splashed all over, but more thickly at the larger end, with umber dashes and splashes intermixed

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with pale brown spots; they vary in size as well as form, one and three-sixteenths, by thirteen-sixteenths or fourteen-sixteenths, to one inch by six-eighths. The Mocking bird, when taken young, is easily domesticated, but does not live many years in confinement. If a nest of young birds be taken and placed in a cage near the nestling place, or within a mile of it, the parent birds will find them out and tend and feed them until they are able to care for themselves, but if they are not then removed, and the parents still have access to them, they will, on finding the young unable to escape, poison them, using the berries of a *Cestrum* or *Solanum* for the purpose. This I have often tested. This year I took a nest of young birds, and captured the female at the same time; at first the male brought them for food berries of *Malpighia Guaiacum*, and *Hamelia* and insects, and after a few days, finding his mate still in confinement, brought the berries of *Cestrum vespertinum*. The young ones died first, and during the next day the female also died; several of the berries were found in the cage. This may almost appear a fiction, but it is here an established fact to many persons. When young and in the nest, large maggots are generally found under the skin of the shoulders and head.

The Mocking birds are very bold, and will fearlessly attack any one interfering with their nest, as exemplified by a curious fact which recently occurred. A pair has been for several years accustomed to build in an *Aurularia*, growing in the public square, but this year (1862,) early in the season, a pair of Loggerheads, *Tyrannus caudifasciatus*, appropriated the same tree to themselves, and commenced constructing their nest. The Mocking birds were seen constantly in the square, but never interrupted or interfered with them until they had nearly completed the nest; they then drove away the Loggerheads, took possession of it, adding a few sticks to the outwork, laid the eggs and hatched the young brood. The poor Loggerheads hovered about the place in great distress for a few days, but never attempted to regain possession of their property. The Grackle is the most determined enemy the Mocking bird has, destroying their eggs and young without mercy; when the attack is made by a single pair of Grackles, the Nightingales keep them off with ease, but the marauders sometimes come in a body, and whilst the Mocking birds are engaged in driving away the first comers, the others fall on the nest, and seizing the young or eggs in their claws, fly away with their prey before the return of the Mocking birds.

29. *MIMUS HILLII*, March.\* (*M. orpheus* of Hill.)—The Spanish Nightingale, or Mocking bird, has many habits of the Thrush. It is, I believe, the bird referred to by Mr. Gosse as *Turdus mustelinus*. The dimensions are, length 11; expanse 13½; flexure 4½; tail 5½. The nest is of similar materials and construction, and rather larger than that of the preceding species; the eggs are more uniform, the ground color a kind of drab green, thickly splashed all over with small spots of pale madder. This species was formerly thought to be entirely restricted to a short distance, not more than three miles, from the sea beach, from Vere to St. David; they are now found to be spreading more inland into Clarendon. It is abundant about Passage Fort, Port Henderson, Green Bay, and Great Salt Pond. I have never met with it on the north side. I am informed, but I have had no opportunity of testing the information, that it is to be found about the hills of Rio Bueno, Dry Harbor and Oche Rios; it is, I dare say, in a more extended range than has come under my observation. At Great Salt Pond and Port Henderson I have often heard it display its remarkable faculty of imitating the notes of other birds, and even the yelping of the puppy, and the mewing of the kitten. I saw, a few years ago in Kingston, in the possession of the late Dr. McGrath, a lively individual of this species, which was perfect in its powers of mimicry. It was fed

\* This species is very closely related to, if not the same with *M. bahamensis*, Bryant, and it is quite possible that both may be identical with the *M. gundlachi*, Cab., from Cuba, although the description of the Cuban bird is insufficient to decide the question. S. F. BAIRD.

principally on fruits and soaked biscuit. I have never observed in this species the maggots found on the young of the *M. orpheus*.

27. *Turdus aurantius*, Gm. (*Merula leucogenys*, Gosse.)—The Hopping Dick is widely dispersed throughout the mountains as well as the lower limestone hills, and sometimes even to the lowlands; but never goes far from the foot of these hills. The nest is sometimes found in tall trees, but more frequently in low shrubs and bushes; it is a rough mass, composed of roots, twigs, fibre, grass, leaves, stems of trailers, and pieces of trash with a cup formed of the softer materials in the centre, and the bottom of the mass generally cemented with mud. The eggs are oval, sometimes pointed at one end, glaucous white or pale raw sienna, splashed all over with small irregular splashes, and spots of burnt sienna, partially confluent; they measure one and three-eighths by fifteen-sixteenths of an inch; the typical eggs have no slaty marking. Individuals of this species are often found in gray mottled plumage.

28. *Turdus jamaicensis*, Gm.—The Glass Eye is a highland bird, and though often induced to descend to the lower hills in search of food, I have never met with it in the lowlands. The nest is smaller and more compact than that of its congener, and made of similar materials. The eggs are long oval, tapering to one end, glaucous white, dashed all over with dashes and spots of burnt ochre, with slaty or pale bistre spots beneath, confluent at the large end; measuring one and seven-sixteenths by about one inch. Both the Thrushes are sweet songsters, with full clear and mellow notes; those of the Glass Eye are more varied. The Hopping Dick eats insects, but the principal food of both is berries and fruit. They are both easily kept in cages and soon become docile and entertaining in confinement.

#### SYLVICOLIDÆ.

38. *Dendroica petechia*, L. (*Sylvicola aestiva*, Gosse.)—This species is a constant resident and known here as the Mangrove Canary, and is rarely seen far from the sea. The nest is often met with in the mangrove swamps along the coast, built in a fork or two more approximate upright branches, often in a lateral fork; it is a neat cup about three inches across, and as much in depth on the outside and two inches deep within; the bottom is conical, except when built on a large branch, then it is flat; some are constructed of grass, roots, fibre, leaves, feathers and debris of sea weeds; in others, down forms a considerable portion of the outer fabric, but the lining is generally of grass or fibre, sometimes of feathers; the eggs are three or four, oval, clayish white, splashed all over with umber brown, and pale slaty spots, principally around the large end, and measure three-fourths by half an inch.

Stragglers of migratory warblers often remain here during the summer, but this is not constant either as to species or numbers, guided possibly by the anticipation of an inclement or genial summer on the Continent. In 1862 we observed numbers of most of the species throughout the whole year. In 1863 the only species we have met with (exclusive of No. 38 and 202) are a limited number of *D. coronata* and *D. discolor* near Spanish Town and *D. tigrina* at Healthshire. I think, as a general rule, the migratory Sylvicolidæ only arrive in the early part of September; those observed earlier are such as have remained during the summer and their young of the year.

36. *Dendroica coronata*.—During the second week in May, 1862, I was informed by one of my sons, that several pairs of Yellow Creepers were building in the large trees of Inga Saman, at the riverside near Spanish Town, but the May rains set in and prevented any further investigation at the time, and when he returned to the place after the rains had ceased, the nests were destroyed.

I have this year, 1863, secured one of the birds, which I send, (No. 258.)

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37. *DENDROICA SUPERCILIOSA*, (*Sylvicola pensilis*, Gosse.)—I have not myself met with this species during the summer months, but on the 8th of August, 1862, an old bird, accompanied by two young ones, made their appearance in my garden in Spanish Town; the young birds were evidently too young and weak to have crossed the Sea; by the 11th of August they became abundant. On mentioning to one of my sons the early appearance of these birds, he told me he had seen them all through the summer flitting about the Cashaw trees in the vicinity of the Town, and called my attention to a specimen he procured at Great Salt Pond on the 4th of June, 1862.

26. *MNIOTILTA VARIA*.—I am sure I have often seen this species in the mountains during the summer months; but I have no note of it. I am informed by a gentleman residing on the line of Saint Ann and Saint Mary, that they were abundant in that district during the summer of 1862, but he did not find any nests. One of my sons saw a pair at Great Salt Pond in June, carrying materials into a Mangrove clump; he could not, however, detect the nest; neither of them could mistake the bird, as I had several specimens which were recognized by both—unless they were *Dendroica pharettra*, a species I have never met with.

31. *GEOTHLYPIS TRICHAS*. (*Trichas marilandica*, Gosse.)—Stragglers of this species are sometimes met with during the summer. In the early part of May, 1861, I was informed that a pair were building in a garden near Linstead, St. Thomas in the Vale, but the nest was removed by some intruder before it was completed. The birds after a few days disappeared. On the 10th of May, 1862, a fine specimen of this bird, sent in third collection, was obtained at the same place.

40. *DENDROICA DISCOLOR*. (*Sylvicola discolor*, Gosse.)—This species is found in numbers during the entire year, but not so abundant in the summer months. They are generally seen on the Cashaw trees and low bushes, widely distributed about the cattle pens. I find them always busy about the *Mul-pighia glabra* in my garden, no doubt capturing small insects from the ripe fruit. My children tell me they have seen it often take up a fallen cherry and fly away with it, I dare say on account of the small flies usually infesting this fruit.

32. <i>VERMIVORA PENNSYLVANICA</i> .	} These are regular annual winter visitors, coming generally in considerable numbers in autumn, and spreading widely; the two first in mountains and plains; the last in the highlands.
35. <i>PARULA AMERICANA</i> .	
41. <i>DENDROICA CANADENSIS</i> .	

32. *DENDROICA TIGRINA*. (*Certhiola maritima*, Gosse.)—This species is always found, in its various changes of plumage, about the Mangrove swamps and river banks. During the summer months it is common about Healthshire and Great Salt Pond, at other times generally distributed. Specimens of the nest and eggs have been sent to the Smithsonian Institution.

44. *SETOPHAGA RUTICILLA*.—I have often, in my summer excursions, seen specimens of this species in the mountains, particularly of Port Royal, and I have been informed they are sometimes seen in St. George and Metcalfe during the summer. On the 16th of August, 1862, three of this species, one mature female and two young birds, came into my garden in Spanish Town; one of the young birds was only able to fly short distances, from tree to tree, and the old bird had to return several times to induce it to follow; they appeared the day after a heavy scud of rain from the hills on the north. There are now several flitting about the *Capparis* and *Eleretia* trees, capturing a small moth which at this time infests the latter tree. Like the Fly-catchers, it always takes its prey on the wing, and when it finds an insect quiescent drives it off before seizing it.

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DENDROICA BOA, D. PHARETRA and D. PALMARUM, I have never met with.

33. SEIURUS AUROCAPILLUS. 34. SEIURUS NOVEBORACENSIS.—These two species are regular annual visitors. On the 5th of August, 1862, I found a pair of the last named species at the river side, near Spanish Town, but they generally arrive at the end of that month or in the beginning of September and depart in the early part of April.

Mr. Hill has the drawing of a third species with the plumage of the *S. aurocapillus*, but without the fulvous crown.

42. —————.—This is another of Mr. Hill's beautiful drawings, a pair of Creepers, with a nest, taken near Spanish Town. The nest is a dome, like those of the *Certhiola flaveola* that are elaborately covered with down. I have never met with this species.

#### VIREONIDÆ.

53. VIREO ALTILOQUUS. (*Vireosylva olivacea*, Gosse.)—From early in March till, October, the Tom Kelly abounds, but is rare during the winter months. Nests are found from April till August. It is a neat cup suspended between two twigs or a fork, 3 inches across, and rather more than 2 deep on the outside and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  within; constructed of grass intermixed with down, webs, tendrils, fibre, grass and leaves, but always lined with grass or fibre, generally that of the root of the trailing *Cereus*. The eggs are two or three, oval, pointed, some rather elongated, measuring  $\frac{7}{8}$  by  $\frac{5}{8}$  of an inch; porphyry-white with a few reddish dots and points sparsely scattered about it, some have large dots about the larger end. Their song is of these notes: "tchew-tchew it," several times repeated; this is its matin hymn, at other times varied with "tchew-it-tchew-ee-tchew-ee-tchew-it."

52. VIREO MODESTUS. (*Vireo noveboracensis*, Gosse.)—This, though a permanent resident, is not so common as the Tom Kelly. The nest is very frail and slightly made, suspended from a fork or two near twigs, composed of horse hair, fibre, fine grass, and the flower stalks of grass, the wall so thin that the eggs are easily seen through it. These are generally two, rarely three in number; porphyry-white, splashed with fine reddish dots and points and measure  $13\text{--}16$ ths by  $9\text{--}16$ ths of an inch. The note of this species is at times a wailing cry, resembling somewhat the mewing of a cat.

193. We have another *Vireo* very similar to this, but with its irides reddish.

Mr. Hill has recognized the *Vireo gilvus* on the railway line between Spanish Town and Kingston.

#### AMPELIDÆ.

54. AMPELIS CEDRORUM. (*A. carolinensis*, Gosse.)—The Cedar bird is not a constant visitor, several years intervening between the periods of their advent; they, however, when they do come, generally appear in considerable numbers, remaining only for a few days. I have only met with them twice, but I have no note of the dates.

55. MYIADESTES ARMILLATUS. (*Ptiliogonys*, Gosse.)—The Solitaire is entirely restricted to the dense highland woods; it is at times very common about the woods, above New Castle, in Port Royal Mountains, and along the ridges between that parish and St. George's, as well as about Abbey Green, one of the approaches to the Blue Mountains. I have never seen the nest or eggs. A Maroon, from Moore Town, once told me he had met with a nest, and that it is like a small calabash, made of stems of bind weed, (trailing plants), and thatch fibre and trash, and that the eggs were greenish with brown spots.

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## HIRUNDINIDÆ.

16. *HIRUNDO FULVA*. (*H. pæciloma*, Gosse.)—These swallows are found in all the caves in the limestone ranges, generally domiciled with large colonies of bats; formerly they occupied parts of all the public buildings and many dilapidated houses about Spanish Town. The *Progne* has, however, driven them from the Secretary's office, and another building now occupied by the Executive Committee, and lately the Palm Swifts have forced them to abandon the House of Assembly; from the other public buildings they are also excluded by the vigilance of the keepers, though they often attempt a lodgment. They are now congregated in large colonies at the railway stations. Small parties or solitary pairs still, however, hover about their old haunts in the town, during the breeding season. One pair built on the Bishop's Registrar's Office, and although the office was closed from 3 o'clock on Saturday until 7 o'clock on Monday morning, they built their nest and laid three eggs, which I took from them before they left. They have often attempted to return every season to the House of Assembly, and commence building, but their little neighbors, the Palm Swifts, allow them no rest until they have driven them away. This year, 1863, a few pairs have succeeded in making a lodgment. The nest is a half of an oblong mass of mud and grass well worked together, with a flat top or platform, and a small cup filled with down. The flat side of the section is stuck against the wall or beam; the eggs are three, varying considerably in form, size, and markings, the type,  $\frac{7}{8}$  by  $\frac{9}{16}$ ths, long oval, white, splashed with dots of burnt ochre, thicker at the larger end. In some the marking is almost obsolete.

*HIRUNDO EUCHYRSEA*.—I have not yet had an opportunity of noting this species, I have only met with two indifferent specimens; they are, I am informed, to be found at Content, in Manchester, where they form a colony in an old building also occupied by the *H. fulva*.

18. *PROGNE DOMINICENSIS*.—Though sometimes met with domiciled in buildings, the *Progne* still manifests its peculiar predilection for dark places. In the office of the Island Secretary, in Spanish Town, they resort to the ceiled roofs of the upper story, entering through holes found under the eaves, where they live and carry on the work of incubation in total darkness. At each end of the House of Assembly is a hole drilled through the brick wall for the insertion of a pipe for carrying off the surplus water from the drip and water jars; in consequence of some alterations made in this respect, the pipes were removed and the holes stopped up from within, but left open outwardly; in each of these holes the *Progne* builds every year. In the mountains, caves and hollow trees are chosen for the nesting places. The nest is composed of an odd mixture of shreds of cloth, silk, paper, leaves, grass, twigs, &c., all loosely put together with a lining of down and feathers. In Spanish Town the nest is composed principally of the soft, flexible portion of the seed pods of the *Catalpa longissima*. The eggs are round, oval, clear white,  $\frac{15}{16}$ ths by  $\frac{11}{16}$ ths of an inch. The species is musical. It is one of the phases of the Naturalist's barometer, as whenever, though the atmosphere be clear and dry, the *Progne* perches on the weathercock or lightning rod, on the highest points of the house top, or on the topmost twigs of some lofty tree, chaunting his incantation, cloudy weather and rain will surely follow within 24 hours. I believe stragglers of this species remain during the winter months. Several species of the migratory *Hirundines* traverse the Island from north to south in the autumn, and from south to north in the spring. They pass in considerable numbers high overhead. Sometimes, in squally weather, their flight is lower, skimming rapidly along, rarely alighting, and then only for a few seconds. I have on several occasions had passing glimpses of some alighting for a moment at some water puddle in the road or street, but these opportunities are rare. On one occasion I saw distinctly some large Martins with 1863.]

ashy-blue backs, and others were black swallows. I observed and heard several flocks pass over in September of 1862, but they were too high to recognize.

43. *COTYLE RIPARIA*.—The Bank Swift has been obtained from St. Elizabeth, and figured by Mr. Hill.

#### CEREBIDÆ.

21. *CERTHIOLA FLAVEOLA*.—The Banana Quit builds a domed nest in low trees or shrubs, seldom more than five or six feet from the ground, often selecting a branch close to a door or window, or frequented path, and their nests with eggs or young are found at all seasons. In the country they are composed of soft grass and down interwoven; some are elaborately covered on the outside with down; in the towns and near homesteads, the exterior is often studded with scraps of rags and cotton; one taken from the low branches of an *Erythroxylon* is ornamented on the outside with the dry flowering stems of a scandent *Boerhaavia*; the interior of each is, however, lined with grass and fibre only. They lay three, rarely four eggs, variable in size and coloring; the dimensions are from 7-16ths by 5-16ths, to 11-16ths by 9-16ths of an inch; the ground color varies from pure white to neutral tint, whilst others are reddish; they are splashed with various shades of brown or reddish-brown spots, often confluent in a circle or a ring round the larger end, with pale slaty spots beneath. This species, as well as the several grass Finches seem to have a predilection for nesting on the same bushes with the common wasp, and the nests are more often found in the different species of *Cereus* and other thorny plants.

65. *GLOSSIPTILA RUFICOLLIS*. (*Tanagrella* — of Gosse.)—The Orange Quit is altogether a mountain bird. It builds a deep, coarsely formed cup of grass and fibre intermixed, sometimes with the stems of small ferns and wiry moss. The eggs are 4; 11-16ths by 9-16ths of an inch, white, speckled with dull-reddish spots, inclined to be confluent at the large end. I have this year, 1863, obtained eggs of this species, identified with the bird, particularly one nest taken from a mass constructed by the black Shrike, and these answer to the description in my note, and show that the eggs in the first collection do not belong to the species.

#### TANAGRIDÆ.

63. *SPINDALIS NIGRICEPHALA*. (*Tanagra zena*, Gosse.)—I have never, myself, taken the eggs of the Orange Bird or Mountain Goldfinch, but have had nests and eggs often brought to me as belonging to the species. They are very like those of the Banana bird; the nest is rather thicker and more coarsely constructed, usually with the fibre from palms and tree ferns, and generally contain 3 eggs. These are long oval, tapering at one end, and measuring  $1\frac{1}{8}$  by  $\frac{3}{4}$  or 13-16ths of an inch, greyish stone, marbled with irregular lines of sepia, and clouded with pale slaty blotches round the large end.

64. *PYRANGA RUBRA*, is rarely met with in cool mountain glades; and appears to be only an occasional visitor.

66. *EUPHONIA JAMAICA*. The nest of the Blue Quit is a dome, composed of grass and down intermixed, thickened and covered on the outside with down or moss, according to the locality in which it is built. It contains 4 oval eggs, 13-16ths by 9-16ths of an inch, clear white, splashed all over with dashes of reddish-brown, more or less confluent, at the larger end. The nests of this species are always scarce in the low lands. The down used is generally that of *Asclepias*, sometimes of *Eriodendron* or *Ochroma*.

I have been informed that there is a blue and white Creeper, common in  
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the Port Royal Hills, but I have not seen it; possibly *Dendroica pharetra* or *Mniotilta varia*.

## FRINGILLIDÆ.

71. PHONIPARA MARCHII, Baird.\* (*Spermophila bicolor*, Gosse.)—The 'black faced' is the most common of the Grass Finches. They are social, and, like the *Certhiola*, are found nesting at all seasons in low trees and bushes, and in the same situation. I have never met with the nests of the other three species of Grass Finches, except during the Spring and Summer months. The nests are domed, generally composed of grass and fibre, and lined with the same materials, sometimes with horse hair. Near homesteads, shreds and scraps of cloth and lumps of cotton, feathers, and trash, are added to the exterior. The eggs are usually 3, sometimes 4, rarely 5 or 6, and vary in dimensions and coloring as much as those of the *Certhiola*; some are rather larger and others sometimes elongated to a tapering point at one end.

72. PHONIPARA ADOXA. (*Spermophila*, of Gosse.)—I have never met with the nest of this species near a domicile. In the country they build higher, and the nest, a dome, is smaller than that of the last species, and always made of grass and fibre; never with the other materials found on the nests of the black face. They are lined with fibre or horse hair; the eggs do not vary in size and color so much as those of the last species, and are rather larger; the markings are of burnt ochre, confluent about the large end, and they measure often  $\frac{3}{4}$  by 9-16ths of an inch.

70. PHONIPARA OLIVACEA. (*Spermophila* of Gosse.)—The yellow-faced grass Finch, constructs a domed nest of grass and fibre, always with a soft lining of down at the bottom. The eggs, 3 or 4 in number, are more uniform than those of the two preceding species. They are usually oval or oblong-oval, pointed at one end, and are white, splashed with grey-brown or light umber mixed with pale slaty, sometimes reddish-brown spots, confluent round the larger end or middle. They measure  $\frac{3}{4}$  by 9-16ths of an inch.

69. LOXIGILLA ANOXANTHA, Selater. (*Spermophila* of Gosse.)—The yellow-back is the largest of the birds known here as grass Finches, or Quits. The nest is a dome, and is composed of grass fibre and down, intermixed and interwoven. The opening is oblong nearly the entire depth, leaving a very shallow bottom, in which 3 or 4 eggs are deposited. All the eggs I have found identified with this species are oval, pointed at one end or oblong oval, white, splashed with reddish-brown spots, (sometimes very pale,) confluent in a circle or a ring round the large end; sometimes round the small end or middle. The markings are sometimes a dull brown. This Finch has a curious fancy for continually, during incubation, adding materials to the exterior of the nest. I have found fresh grass thus added after the young have been hatched.

73. LOXIGILLA VIOLACEA. (*Pyrrhula violacea*, Gosse.)—The Cotton-tree Sparrow, though a mountain bird, often breeds in the lowlands. It generally selects, though it does not confine itself to, a decayed hollow in a tree; the crutch of two or more upright branches, or a clump of *Tillandsia* or *Cuscuta*, or some trailing plant equally answers its purpose. The nest is coarsely made of grass, trash, twigs, stems of trailing plants and leaves, with a small cup of fibre and grass, closely interwoven, and contains 4 eggs. These are oval,

\* This is the *Spermophila bicolor*, of Gosse, but not the true *Fringilla bicolor* of Linnaeus which is the Bahaman species, differing in the much greater extent of black beneath. It may be the *Tiaris omisa* of Jardine described from Tobago; but this author expressly states that his bird is distinct from the Jamaican. If, as I think most probable, the Jamaican species is thus without a name, to no one could it with more propriety be dedicated than to Mr. March, who has done so much towards extending our knowledge of the natural history of his island.—S. F. Baird.



rather elongated at one end, measuring 1 by  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch; bluish or greyish-white, splashed with dashes and spots of umber mixed with pale brown, sometimes confluent into a blotch on and round the large end.

67. *COTURNICULUS PASSERINUS*. (*C. tixicus*, Gosse.)—The grass pink is not an uncommon bird in the savannas and grass lands near Spanish Town. The nest is a small, rudely made cup, fixed very low, sometimes on the ground, in tufts of grass roots. The eggs are 4, oval-pointed at one end, and rather large for the size of the bird, measuring 13-16ths by 10-16ths of an inch, bluish-white, splashed sparsely with spots and irregular dashes of burnt sienna intermixed with pale-brown spots on the large end. The song of the grass pink is, chi-chi-cree, several times softly and rapidly repeated. The cry of tichichro-cro-cro, attributed to it, is no doubt the call of the *Ortygometra jamaicensis*, which, after the breeding season, resorts to the same coverts as the grass pinks.

68. *CRITHAGRA BRAZILIENSIS*.—I have had no opportunity of noting the nidification of the "Canary." I am, however, informed that the nest and eggs are like those of the Goldfinch of Europe. The *Crithagra* was, until the last 3 or 4 years, almost confined to the neighborhood of Hodge's Pen, in St. Elizabeth, to which it was first introduced; but it is gradually extending its range, and is now found at Long Hill, in the same parish, 30 miles from Hodge's Pen.

#### ICTERIDÆ.

58. *QUISCALUS CRASSIROSTRIS*.—The Grakles select the tallest trees, clothed with the most dense foliage, in the neighborhood of their intended location, whether it be the lofty bamboo, genip-hog plum or black cherry, or the more lowly mango, lignum vitæ, or cappariz, and occupy it in companies of 6 or more, often as many as 20 pairs, allowing no other bird to encroach upon their chosen domain. Each pair, however, builds a separate nest, which is about 8 inches across, coarsely constructed outwardly with the stems of trailing plants, (in this district generally that of *Cassus Cissoides*), with a compact cup of 4 inches diameter and 3 inches depth, of dry stems of convulvi and other trailing plants, fibres and fibrous roots, on a bed of decaying leaves. The eggs are 3—4, variable in form and size, round, oval or elongated, measuring from  $1\frac{1}{8}$  to  $1\frac{3}{8}$  by  $\frac{7}{8}$  of an inch. They are of a dull metallic green, (rapidly discoloring when blown,) marbled with irregular sinuated lines and scratches, with a few blotches and splashes of dark sepia, intermixed with pale slaty spots; sometimes the lines and spots are nearly black. On all the breeding trees in the neighborhood of Spanish town, and there are many, the nests remain undisturbed from year to year, the birds at other times roosting elsewhere in large flocks, and only resorting to these trees in the breeding season; at this time they are usually so silent and cautious, that a person may pass and re-pass the trees many times before detecting the nests. The usual food of the Grakle is insects, worms, lizards, and the eggs and young of other birds; the larger prey he clutches with one foot and flies with it to his nestling or some tree near by, and standing on one leg, presses his prize with the other on the branch, and tears it to pieces, feeding his young with or devouring the portions, as he tears them away. The attack on the nests of the larger birds, is often made by parties, and so fiercely, that the nests are torn and the materials scattered away. I lately saw a young Grakle with a small, brown tree lizard in his beak, and presently the parent bird brought another which he also took, but for a long time he kept running, in great tribulation, backwards and forwards with the two dead lizards in his beak, not knowing what to do with them, until after the lapse of more than an hour the old bird returned and assisted in tearing them to pieces.

When I first saw a Grakle rubbing himself with an over-ripe lime, I was

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certainly at a loss to account for the object of the operation, until afterwards, in preparing some specimens, I discovered that he is much infested with bird-lice; his object, evidently, was to rid himself of this nuisance. A roasted lime is used in rubbing domestic poultry for the same purpose. The Grakle is very destructive to the crops of oranges, by puncturing with and inserting the beak in the ripening fruit once or twice, and the fruit so punctured, soon after falls.

There is to be found in St. Ann and St. Mary a small Grakle with the habits of the preceding.

59. *ICTERUS LEUCOPTERYX*. There is a variety of the Banana bird, known as the yellow tail, in contradistinction to the common kind or black tail,\* a little duller in plumage, the yellow tail and dark ground color of the eggs constituting the only differences I can find to distinguish them. The latter, or black tail, is found abundant everywhere, the former only in certain localities, but when they meet they appear quite familiar, and the two often mate, and I have sometimes found one or two black feathers in the yellow tail. There is no difference in the materials or construction of the nests, both building with similar materials, black or white horse hair or fibre, or both intermixed; the fibres generally used are those of the roots of the trailing *Cerei* or the fibre of different species of *Cerecis*. The nest is a small sack or purse 3 or 4 inches across and about the same depth, depending from a fork, or two approximate branches, and usually contains 3 or 4, rarely 5 oval or long oval eggs. These are more or less tapering at one end and variable in size; of those taken from one nest, one measures 1 inch by 6-8ths and another  $\frac{7}{8}$  by  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch; those of the black tail are creamy or clayish-white, and those of the yellow tail dark cream color or light drab, both marbled at the large end with irregular spots and lines of dark sepia or umber-brown, and cloudings of pale burnt umber and bluish-grey; sometimes a few spots and dashes are sparsely scattered below.

62. *DOLYCHONYX ORYZIVORUS*.—The Butter bird is an annual visitor. They come in large flocks and are very regular in their arrival in October, then being in winter plumage. After a few days resting in the commons and Guinea Grass fields, then in seed, they proceed on their southward route. They appear again in Spring on their return northward, but in smaller flocks, and the male is then in Summer plumage. The Butter bird is often caged as a song bird, but never survives the second winter of confinement.

*NESOPSAR NIGERRIMUS*. (Selater, Ibis, 1859, 456.)—The Black Banana bird, is not, I am informed, uncommon in the highlands, but I have never, to my recollection, met with a specimen of it. Some years back a black bird sporting in a tree near New Castle, in the Port Royal Mountains, was shown to me as this species, but I had no gun. The nest is described as of a structure like that of the *Icterus* but smaller, and the eggs also smaller with similar markings.

60. —————. I have often met in St. Ann with another small black bird, known there as the black sparrow; it is apparently Icterine. I obtained, many years ago, some specimens of this, but they were destroyed by *Dermestes*. It may be the Black Banana bird.

#### *CORVIDÆ.*

*CYANOCORAX PILEATUS*. I have never heard of any other individual of this species found here, except the one mentioned by Mr. Gosse, and that was probably a caged bird escaped from confinement.

\* These appear to be merely different ages of the same species, requiring two years to attain the mature male plumage, as in the case of *Icterus spurius*. (S. F. B.)

54. *CORVUS JAMAICENSIS*.—Mr. Gosse has given a very full and graphic history of this bird. They build in company like rooks, on the loftiest forest trees, and are then very fierce. I have for several years endeavored to induce the settlers in the vicinity of their breeding trees to procure me eggs of this species, but they have always declined, fearing an encounter with the parent birds.

#### COLUMBIDÆ.

98. *GEOTRYGON MONTANA*.—The Mountain Partridge is one of our ground pigeons, breeding and roosting, however, on trees. Its food is the same as that of the White Belly, and like that bird always feeds on the ground. In the autumn and winter months it feeds in company, and is then met with in the plains near the foot of the lower ranges of hills. It generally builds on low trees or bushes, but the nest is occasionally found near the summit of tall trees. I have never heard of its nest being found on the ground. The eggs are two, oval or round oval, rarely pointed at one end, measuring 13–16ths to  $1\frac{1}{8}$  by  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch, and vary from reddish drab to cream color. The dark colored bird is the female, the rufous the male.

97. *GEOTRYGON CRISTATA*. (*G. sylvatica*, Gosse.)—The Mountain Witch is often found abundant in the St John's and St. Catharine's Hills. I have not been able to discover the great affinity to the true Gallinæ, said to exist in the Mountain Witch, except in the formation of its legs, which are adapted to rapid motion on the ground; the wings are not proportionately shorter than those of the other ground pigeons; the thigh is clothed to the knee. It is not gregarious, though, like many others of the tribe, several are usually found feeding in the same locality. It lives principally and feeds on the ground, running with great quickness when disturbed. It roosts in low trees and shrubs, and breeds on the ground or in low bushes four or five feet high. I have never found more than two eggs or young in any nest; the eggs are roundish oval, stone color, measuring  $1\frac{1}{8}$  by a little more than an inch. The squabs are like the rest of *Columbidæ*, at first very helpless and sparsely covered with soft downy hair, and are fed in the nest by the old birds until they are able to follow them. The Mountain Witch never takes to a tree unless suddenly alarmed. The female takes the largest share of incubation, the male usually perching on some low bush near the nestling place, until required to take his turn; he remains until the return of the female from feeding. Its food is the same as that of the White Belly. It is very tame and docile in confinement, but is never sufficiently domesticated to be left at liberty. It is said to feed on the white or duck ant. I do not know this as a fact, nor have I met with any one who does; it is, however, possible, as the egg of the *Termiles* is firm and resembles a semi-transparent berry.

Mr. Gosse mentions the finding of small snails in the gizzard of the *Geotrygon*; this may be accounted for by the fact that, in the early morning, at certain seasons, myriads of small-shelled snails are found crawling among the decaying leaves and vegetable debris, in all the damp mountain glades and hill-sides. Many of these may be thus picked up with the seeds on which these doves feed.

77. ———.—The Blue Dove is another ground pigeon, with the form of the Pea Dove, and the habits of the White Belly. The body is blue, the neck and head grey. It builds in low shrubs, generally in clumps of *Tillandsia*, or on the ground; the egg is the form and size of that of the White Belly, and is a light brownish drab.

There is a bar-tailed pigeon found sometimes in the highlands, on the line of St. Ann's and Trelawny, the size of the Bald Pate, but without the white poll. It is ashy blue above, the tail has a broad discolored white band; it is

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known as the Ring-tail. It is probably only an occasional visitor, though it is sometimes seen in numbers. It may be *Columba fasciata*.

90. *COLUMBA CARRIBEA*.—The Ring-tail is strictly an arboreal pigeon. It is supposed to drink from the water collected in the wild pines, the large growing species of *Tillandsia*, *Bilbergia*, and others. I have, however, been informed by Maroons from Scott's Hall and Moore Town, that they have often waited in ambush for these birds, as they came in the afternoon to drink at the mountain springs. This pigeon usually keeps to the deep woods of the highest ranges of hills, where, perched amid the dense foliage of some lofty tree, it remains securely screened from observation. In the autumn and winter months it sometimes descends to the lower ranges of limestone hills, but never to the low lands or plains, in quest of food. It is rarely seen in parties of more than six or eight, and then only whilst feeding on the fruit and berries of the several species of *Ficus*, *Laurus*, *Bumelia*, *Punata*, *Eugenia*, and other fleshy and succulent fruit and berry-bearing forest trees. Grain does not appear to form an article of its food in a state of nature, as it is with difficulty led to feed on corn in captivity, and is consequently difficult to cage. In the breeding season, during the spring and summer months, the Ring-tail retires altogether to the dense woods on the high mountain ranges, inaccessible to all but the Maroon or hardy mountain hunter. Many sportsmen inexperienced in this kind of woodcraft, have lost their lives in attempting ring-tail shooting, without a competent guide, by falling over precipices or into sink-holes. The nest, a thick mat or platform of sticks bedded with leaves, twigs, and soft bark, is constructed near the summit of some lofty tree enveloped in tangled masses of trailing plants; the eggs are ivory white, but I have no note of the measurement.

91. *COLUMBA INORNATA*. (*C. rufina*, Gosse.)—The Blue Pigeon is also an arboreal and highland Pigeon, sometimes, however, and particularly during the Guinea corn season, it descends to the plains. Its food is fruits and berries with the addition of grain. In January and February, in the early morning, it is seen in small companies of six or eight or as single pairs, passing from the hills to the fields of ripening Guinea corn, and again returning in the evening to the hills. It is more wary than the Ringtail. The nest is also a platform, but more massive than that of any other native pigeon; it is more easily detected than that of the Ringtail, as it is often placed on some lofty tree in the vicinity of clearings, and in the open glades and hillsides. The egg is ivory-white, and larger than that of the Bald-pate.

92. *COLUMBA LEUCOCEPHALA*.—There are two varieties of the Bald-pate pigeon, distinguished as the Mountain and Mangrove Bald-pate; the iris is hazel, with dark chestnut pupil. I have not met with the latter in the mountains, but both kinds resort at all times to the lowlands and mangrove swamps along the coast, and to the neighboring islands and keys (Pigeon and the two Goat Islands in particular) where they breed in numbers, making their nests in trees, some at high elevations, others so low as to be within reach of a person standing, according to the convenience of the site. Large numbers of squabs are often taken from these places and brought into the towns for sale. They feed in company in the morning and afternoon, and as they often feed at a distance from their roosting places, large flocks are sometimes seen in the early morning and evening passing and repassing overhead, sometimes in high, at other times in low flight, going to and returning from the feeding ground, or convenient watering place. Their food is grain, fruit and berries, nuts and seeds, and they commit serious depredations on the Guinea corn fields, not only by the quantity they devour, but by breaking down the brittle corn stalks with the weight of their bodies. They are easily kept, and often breed in confinement, when they become quiet and contented, but take the earliest opportunity of emancipation. The nest is a platform of sticks  
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and twigs loosely put together, and bedded with softer materials, with a slight hollow in the centre; the eggs are two, glarish white, varying in form and dimensions, but usually long oval,  $1\frac{1}{8}$  by  $1\frac{1}{8}$  of an inch.

93. *MELOPELIA LEUCOPTERA*.—The White Wing is more a lowland than a mountain dove. They are gregarious, usually keeping in flocks of ten to twenty, but in January and February, in the Guinea corn season and other times, when the *Cerei* are in fruit, they congregate in large flocks, often of several hundreds. Their food is principally grain and seed, but they are equally fond of the ripe fruit of the different species of *Cereus*, abounding on the savannahs and salinas during the summer. Inland, the White Wing, like the Bald-pate, breeds in solitary pairs; but in the mangrove swamps and islands along the coast they breed in company, many in the same tree. The nest is a frail platform of sticks with a slight hollow of leaves and bark, sometimes a few feathers; the eggs are two, oblong oval, glarish white,  $1\frac{5}{16}$ ths by  $1\frac{1}{16}$ ths. The White Wing is kept and often breeds in confinement; it is at first wild, fluttering in alarm at the approach of any person, but afterwards becomes docile if attended with care. It crosses with the *Turtur risorius*. I have now a male White Wing mated with a female Ring-dove.

239. *TURTUR RISORIUS*.—The Turtle or Ring Dove is an introduced caged species, but I add it to the Jamaica birds, as I have sometimes seen parties of six or eight feeding in company with the White Wing in the Guinea corn fields and salinas; but I have never met with a nest in the woods. There is a variety pure white, without the ring, though bred in captivity for many generations, and though so docile in disposition, this dove cannot be allowed at large, as it generally takes advantage of any opportunity of escaping. It breeds several times during the year. The eggs are similar to those of the White Wing, and measure from one and an eighth by seven-eighths to one and three-eighths by an inch.

95. *CHAMÆPELIA PASSERINA*.—The Ground Dove sometimes perches and always roosts on low trees; but is otherwise generally found in pairs feeding on small grain and seeds. Several pairs may be seen feeding together, but they do not associate. It is very tame and is commonly found about homesteads and in streets and roads. It breeds in low trees. The cashew and logwood appear to be preferred. It is rarely seen in cages, as the note is a plaintive, mournful coo, and a Creole superstition attaches misfortune to the person keeping them. The nest is slightly made of twigs and grass in a fork or hollow. The eggs are two, round oval, white, seven-eighths by eleven-sixteenths of an inch.

94. *ZENAIIDA AMABILIS*.—The Pea Dove is not gregarious, and although terrestrial, is often seen and heard on trees, and there it also roosts. It builds indiscriminately, in trees or on the ground, a slight platform of sticks and twigs loosely put together. The eggs are two, oval or roundish oval white, measure  $1\frac{3}{8}$  to  $1\frac{5}{8}$  by 1 inch. It is a favorite cage bird, and though apparently very timid and restless, may become very tame and docile, and take grain from the hand or lips of its feeder.

96. *LEPTOPTILA JAMAICENSIS*. (*Peristera* of Gosse).—The White Belly is strictly a ground dove, never resorting to trees except to roost or for temporary shelter, when disturbed or alarmed, and then it always perches low. It prefers, but is not confined to the low ranges of limestone hills, particularly in those districts where the orange abounds, the pips or seeds of this fruit contributing largely to its support. Its food is also grain, seeds and berries; and though several pairs may be seen feeding under the same tree, they never associate. The White Belly breeds in low bushes, often in clumps of *Tillandsia*.

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I have never seen the nest on the ground. The eggs dull white, generally round oval, measuring  $1\frac{3}{8}$  by one inch.

There is another rare species closely allied to this dove, known here as the Spanish Pea dove, (not the *Starnoenas*.) Some years back I obtained one of a pair shot at Gregory Park, near the railway station, half way between Spanish Town and Kingston, but it was unfortunately destroyed by rats whilst in preparation. It had the appearance of a cross between the Pea Dove and White Belly.

#### GALLINACEA.

235. *NUMIDA MITRATA*?—The wild Guinea bird appears distinct from the tame one. It is in length twenty inches; expanse thirty; flexure nine. The eye is black, the beak and feet smoky black or dark brown, sometimes red above the knee; the plumage dark indigo, spangled white. They lay in tall grass or shrubby thickets; each individual lays thirteen or more eggs. Many pairs, however, usually breed together, possibly the old birds and nestlings of the previous year. In 1838 I found at the foot of a large cashaw tree, in a wide belt of Penguins, a nest containing more than one hundred eggs, and in 1843 another in a Guinea grass piece, with forty eggs, and as many more shells, from which the chicks had emerged, lying about the nest; I removed the eggs of the last nest and placed them under hens in the poultry yard. Many of them were hatched in batches of three or four at intervals of several days. When we first approached both nests, several old birds ran from the place and flew away; the eggs in both instances were deposited in layers with dry leaves and twigs intermixed, and I am told by many of the cattlemen, accustomed to range the woods and pastures in getting up cattle, that they have always found the nests with a large number of eggs in each nest, the Guinea birds always breeding in company and sitting together, and that, as a number of chicks are hatched and are able to quit, one of the hens leads them off to feed, the others remaining on the nest; and so in succession until the clutching be completed; each successive hen joining the first, and returning at night until the whole are hatched, and the young are strong enough to take a wide range. This species is very difficult to domesticate, for, though clutched under a fowl, they will almost as soon as they are hatched, quit the nest and take to the grass and bushes, unless kept in a close place; and even after they are full grown, will join the wild flock at the earliest opportunity. The domestic bird is often found in company with the wild flocks, and I have frequently shot a cross between the two. The eggs are generally one and eleven-sixteenths by one and seven-sixteenths, and are much darker than those of the domestic bird, usually a dark reddish drab, with, however, the same indented points.

100. *NUMIDA MELEAGRIS*.—The domestic Guinea Fowl is much varied in plumage; some are nearly black with little of the spotted plumage, some are dark blue, whilst others are of various shades, from ashy blue to pearly white. It breeds from March to December, and lays at each clutch from fifteen to twenty eggs or more. A single bird has been known to lay more than sixty eggs in a season, when the eggs have been from time to time removed without permitting the bird to sit. The eggs are round oval, abruptly pointed at one end, and generally measure two by one and five-eighths of an inch; they are from clayish white to dark reddish drab, thickly speckled all over with indented points of a darker hue.

101. *ORTYX VIRGINIANUS*.—The Quail abounds in all parts of the Island. They lay on the ground, generally in tufts of grass roots, or in penguin fences, or under heaps of bushes, with only the materials of grass or leaves found on the spot for a nest. This contains usually from twelve to twenty eggs, which are oval pointed, measuring one and one-fourth by one inch. During the period 1863.]

of incubation the male is continually found sitting on a low branch in the vicinity of the nest, but does not appear to take any part in the process of incubation. The Quail cannot be kept in cages for any time, as from its impatient habit of running to and fro before the bars or wires, it soon becomes totally blind. I have, however, kept them for several years in a room or large aviary closed for about three feet at the bottom, where they have laid, but never hatched.

In 1826, or about that time, the late Mr. Laing turned out at Keith Hall, in the St. Catharine Hills, several of the French or Red Legged Partridges; none, however, have been since met with.

#### APPENDIX.

249. *FALCO ANATUM*.—Several individuals of a Falcon have appeared about Salt Ponds this winter, 1862—1863, and also in the parish of St. Elizabeth, I have in my possession a living specimen taken at Goshen, near Port Henderson, in this parish, (not St. Ann's). It swooped on a large Cochinchina hen in a cottage yard on that property, and got entangled with the hen, which was too heavy for the hawk to lift, and in the struggle it was captured by the owner of the fowl. It appears to be a male; the dimensions are, length  $16\frac{1}{2}$  inches, expanse 40, flexure  $13\frac{1}{2}$ ; iris dark-hazel with black pupil, core yellow. The bill is small and weak, and leaden-blue, with a broad stripe of yellow covering the nostrils, frontal band narrow, white; head sepia brown spotted with black; a patch of black on the cheek extending over the eye, the rest of the cheek and throat white with a few black dots; breast white, clouded with reddish blotches; upper plumage reddish and slaty brown, each feather with greyish or rusty white edges; the entire under plumage white, with transverse and diagonal bands of slaty-black; legs and feet slender and yellow, claws black. Inner webs of wing quills barred with white; tail feathers barred with ashy and tipped with white; third wing quill longest.\*

#### Notes on the *MIMIDÆ* of Jamaica.

BY RICHARD HILL.

(Communicated by the Smithsonian Institution.)

*MIMUS ORPHEUS*.—Linnæus, when he described in the list of his Thrushes the *Turdus polyglottus*, and the *Turdus orpheus*, and referred to Sloane's Jamaica for one, under the name of the Mocking Bird, and to Brown's Jamaica for the other, with no distinctive name, was noting the two remarkable *Mimidæ* of our late naturalists,—birds very different in song and very different in plumage, and yet commonly spoken of as very indistinctly distinguishable by those who, satisfied by "the bird in the bush," have never troubled themselves to examine "the bird in the hand,"—Linnæus, with his peculiar descriptive brevity, marks their character.

*Turdus polyglottus*. 7. T. obscure cinereus, sn̄tus pallide cinereus, macula alarum albida. Eximia voce cantillat et cantu instruitur.

*Turdus orpheus*. 8. T. dorso fusco, pectore rectricibusque lateralibus albidis, alis fascia alba. Cauda longa rotundata. Rectrices extimæ albæ. E terra elevatus cantilena spectatorem rapit in sui admirationem.

I feel quite satisfied, therefore, that the common mocking bird of Jamaica should be called *Mimus polyglottus*, and not *orpheus*, as given by Selater and others, and that the name of *M. orpheus* belongs to the larger darker species

\* This specimen has lately been sent by Mr. March to the Smithsonian Institution. Though of smaller size than usual in the United States, it appears to be the same with our Duck Hawk, *F. anatum*, although the dark-cheek stripe is rather more distinctly defined than usual. (S. F. Baird).